

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. The amendment introduces no new matter. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Desir at the interview held April 17, 2007, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 6-12 and the indication of allowability regarding claim 5. Claim 5 is indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. The remaining claims are also allowable, as discussed below.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP-A-08-090873 to Yoshida. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, among other features, a printer unit demountably accommodated in a recess formed in a cabinet, the printer unit comprising a feed tray for accommodating printer paper, a paper discharge slot in a front side of the printer unit, and a paper feed slot at a rear portion of the paper feed tray. Support for such features can be found, for example, in paragraph [0028], and Fig. 2 of Applicants' specification, as filed. Benefits of such features may also be found, for example, in paragraphs [0027] and [0036]. Yoshida does not teach, nor can it reasonably be considered to have suggested, such a combination of features.

In Yoshida, a paper discharge port, a paper feed tray, and a paper feed port are arranged separately from the printer unit as part of the body 2. For example Fig. 1 and the Abstract of Yoshida clearly depict and specify that the cover/tray 4 is part of the body 2, not

the printer unit 3. Yoshida does not reference or suggest that the printer unit 3 comprises a corresponding paper discharge port, or paper feed port, as recited in claim 1.

These features were discussed during the April 17 personal interview with the Examiner. The Examiner agreed that further consideration would be required in light of the amended claim features and arguments.

Regarding claims 3 and 4, the Office Action asserts that paragraph [0009] and the Abstract of Yoshida disclose relevant features. However, Yoshida cannot reasonably be considered to teach a locking device to bring the printer unit into a locked state where the printer unit is fixed to the recess, as recited in claim 3, or a lock element to prevent the locked state of the printer unit brought about by the locking device from being released, as recited in claim 4. Yoshida does not fix the printer unit 3 within the body 2 at least because it appears to remain freely movable in and out of the case. Further, Yoshida does not teach a lock element to prevent the locked state of the printer unit brought about by the locking device from being released, as recited in claim 4.

For at least the above reasons, Yoshida does not teach, nor can it reasonably be considered to have suggested, the combinations of features positively recited in at least claims 1, 3 and 4. Additionally, claim 2 also is neither taught, nor would it have been suggested, by Yoshida for at least the respective dependence of this claim on independent claim 1, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that claim 2 recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4 over Yoshida are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-4, in addition to the indication of allowability of claim 5 and the allowance of claims 6-12, are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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